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Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know from the hon. Member in what time it will be possible for him to decide on the question of percentage cut ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" The matter is not for the Retrenchment Committee. It is for the Government to decide. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know how long it will take for the Government to decide ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" I cannot prophesy. "

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether this 10 per cent cut that was announced the other day by His Excellency the Governor does not affect the lower officers ? Is it not a real hardship to those who are drawing less than Rs. 200 or 300, because those who draw more will have to undergo a surrender or only 3 or 4 per cent of their salaries roughly, excluding the income-tax? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" I must ask for notice of that question. I am not aware whether His Excellency referred to a general 10 per cent cut. The 10 per cent cut that he referred to was with reference to his own salary, and that of Members of the Government."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know if the question of percentage cuts of salaries was discussed by the Retrenchment Committee ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" It was discussed by the Retrenchment Committee. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Was any recommendation made by them ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" Yes, Sir. "

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know what is the percentage suggested by them? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" The Retrenchment Committee made general suggestions that there should be cuts ranging from 1 to 7 per cent. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" Does the hon. Member think that 10 per cent cut is sufficient ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" Quite sufficient. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" Is it inclusive or exclusive of income-tax? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. STOKES :—" I must ask for notice. "

Budget deficit during the current year.

*498 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount of deficit likely to arise in the budget estimates for the whole of the current year, and how it is distributed under each head of revenue;

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(*b*) what the total amount of saving effected by the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee is;

(*c*) to what extent have the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee been accepted and in what manner;

(*d*) what saving is effected by retrenchment in each of the departments under (1) Reserved and (2) Transferred respectively;

(*e*) what the extent is of the saving effected by (1) the reduction or the abolition of allowances, (2) the reduction of salaries, (3) the abolition of posts, (4) the retirement of officers and servants and (5) the abolition of departments of service; and

(*f*) what the posts are that have been hitherto abolished and contemplated to be abolished under the scheme of retrenchment in the gazetted ranks in each department under Reserved and Transferred respectively?

A.—(*a*) A total fall in revenue amounting to about Rs. 132 lakhs, as detailed below, is at present anticipated, as compared with the budget:—

	RS. LAKHS.
Excise	95
Stamps	19
Forest	14
Net effect of anticipated increases and decreases under other heads	4
	132

(*b*), (*c*), (*e*) & (*f*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 354-A which gives the fullest information at present possible regarding the progress of retrenchment.

(*d*) Out of the Rs. 63 lakhs savings recommended by the Retrenchment Committee nearly Rs. 29 lakhs represent savings on Civil Works and Allowances of all kinds, the expenditure on which is common to all departments. Of the balance of Rs. 34 lakhs about Rs. 30 lakhs appertain to the Transferred, and about Rs. 4 lakhs to the Reserved departments so far examined.

Of the Rs. 88 lakhs savings secured so far by Government during the current year, about Rs. 26½ lakhs represent savings on Civil Works and allowances which are common to all departments, and of the balance of Rs. 61½ lakhs, Rs. 30 lakhs come from Reserved departments and Rs. 31½ lakhs from the Transferred departments.

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Mr. Yakub Hasan :—" May I know what proportion this fall of Rs. 95 lakhs in excise revenue bears to the budgeted income? '

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" The budgeted income at the beginning of the year was about 5 crores of rupees. Ninety-five lakhs of rupees roughly works out at one-fifth.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know what this deficit in Excise revenue is due to?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" Mostly owing to economic pressure and partly owing to agitation."

Savings on account of revision of salaries.

* 499 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of saving effected or expected to be effected by the revision of scales of salary in the gazetted and non-gazetted ranks; and

(*b*) what the respective posts are for which revision of scales of salary has been proposed?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Retrenchment Committee are examining the question of revising the scales of pay for future entrants to all Provincial, Subordinate and Specialist services and it is understood that they have not yet completed their examination. No proposals have yet been received and it will probably be some time before final recommendations are made.

Saving effected by the introduction of fixed travelling allowance.

*500 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have examined the extent of saving that might be effected by the introduction of fixed travelling allowance; and

(*b*) if so, what are the results of their investigation, and the reasons for their decision?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) No; but the possibility of effecting savings in the manner indicated was referred to the Retrenchment Committee for consideration and they have recently recommended that Government should examine further the possibility, without involving increased expenditure, of extending the system of fixed travelling allowance to suitable classes of officers who have a fixed amount of touring to do within a limited area. Most officers in this category already receive fixed travelling allowance.